there was always the general feeling that war had become too terrible to happen. Governments would recoil, it was thought, from precipitating a conflict whose consequences would be so disastrous for all. Before aeroplanes and poison gas and high explosives war might be lightly undertaken, but these horrors had fundamentally altered the situation. What Mr. Harold Macmillan has called with deep feeling the 'modern foul ubiquity' of war, made it inadmissible. When the victims could be selected and the scene of their sufferings localised, it was understandable that wars should be carelessly, even uproariously, entered upon; but a foully ubiquitous war, a war which might as easily demolish the Bank of England as Rheims Cathedral, and as easily de-capitate an Archbishop of Canterbury as one of his parishioners, was not to be endured.

With pathetic tenacity men cling to the belief that changing circumstances change life* Can a world in which aeroplanes travel at 400 miles per hour, they ask themselves, be the same as one in which there were only steam-engines, laboriously attain-ing their mile a minute? If a voice may be carried across a wide ocean, is it conceivable that the words thus transmitted should have no greater significance than if spoken across a tea-table ? 'The world of everyday life is now so radically different from the world of the Gospels,' a clergyman writes,[15] 'and the effort required to interpret the universal truths that derive from the Gospel, in terms that mean anything in a world of intricate social organisation is so immense, that the whole thing appears remote

from life as it has to be lived,' not, perhaps, reflecting that the Roman Empire's 'world of everyday life' was also radically different from the world of the Gospels, yet not, for that reason, blind to their significance. War has always been brutish and unprofitable, but not so brutish and so unprofitable as now; therefore, the angry passions which formerly brought it to pass, must have given place to a more reasonable temper.

The pursuit of power has for many centuries been recklessly undertaken, without counting the cost in life or in treasure, nor

[15] *The Crisis and Democracy* by the Rev. Eric Fenn.